

Amendments to the Claims:

1.-24. (cancelled)

25. (original) A method for joining multiple cut pieces of thermoplastic material to form a cellular block, comprising:

supplying at least one cut piece to be added to the cellular block by engaging a plurality of spaced apart protrusions to the cut piece to be added to the cellular block and moving the protrusions along a path so that the protrusions carry the cut piece to be added to the cellular block along the path to a position proximate the cellular block; and

then welding the cut piece to be added to the cellular block to a cut piece most recently previously welded to the cellular block, including moving a plurality of welding mechanisms respectively within respective slots defined between adjacent protrusions of the plurality of protrusions, and engaging the welding mechanisms against the cut piece to be added to the cellular block.

26. (original) A method according to claim 25, wherein the moving the protrusions along the path includes translating the protrusions.

27.-38. (cancelled)